

10/048126
PCT Rec'd 26 MAR 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.	10/048,126	International Appln.	PCT/CH01/00118
Filing Date	10/25/2001	Intl. Filing Date	02/23/2001
First Named Inventor	Bourgeois	Attorney Docket No.	GLN-009US
Title: Switching Device, Particularly For Optical Switching			

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 26, 2002

Dear Sir:

Kindly amend the application in the following manner:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 14 and 15 as follows. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(i), the amended claims are presented below in clean form and, in accordance with §1.121(c)(1)(ii), a marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached to this response. Also, as permitted under §1.121(c)(1)(ii), the equivalent marking the Applicants used to designate deleted text is by line strikethrough, rather than by brackets, while added text is underlined as usual.

4. (Once Amended) Switching device according to Claim 2, characterized in that it also comprises, associated with each electrode (20), at least one stopper (18) serving as a stop for the beam and for the purpose of preventing it coming into contact with said beam.
6. (Once Amended) Switching device according to Claim 4, characterized in that it comprises a plurality of stoppers (24) distributed along the length of said electrodes.

EXPRESS MAIL

Express Mail No: ET838539715US

Date of Deposit: March 26, 2002

This correspondence is being deposited with the Express Mail Post Office to Addressee service of the United States Postal Service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

7. (Once Amended) Switching device according to Claim 6, characterized in that the side walls of the moving structure, stoppers and electrodes are coated with a diamond layer.
9. (Once Amended) Switching device according to Claim 1, characterized in that it is made on a substrate (10).
14. (Once Amended) Switching device according to Claim 2, characterized in that said beam (14) presents a 'T' shaped section.
15. (Once Amended) Switching device according to Claim 1, in which each electrode (20) is connected to a conductor linked to a control circuit, characterized in that the electrode connection with the above-mentioned conductor comprises a fuse (42).

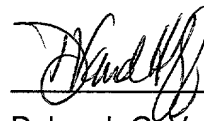
REMARKS

The claims have been amended to change dependencies in claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 14 and 15.

It is respectfully submitted that no new subject matter has been introduced by way of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____



Deborah G. VandenHoff
Agent for the Applicant
Registration No. 45,176

Van Tassel & Associates
P.O. Box 2928
Bellaire, TX 77402-2928
Ph: (713) 839-1749
Fax: (713) 839-1790

**Marked-up Copy of Amended Claims
in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii)**

4. (Once Amended) Switching device according to ~~Claims 2 or 3~~Claim 2, characterized in that it also comprises, associated with each electrode (20), at least one stopper (18) serving as a stop for the beam and for the purpose of preventing it coming into contact with said beam.
6. (Once Amended) Switching device according to ~~Claims 4 or 5~~Claim 4, characterized in that it comprises a plurality of stoppers (24) distributed along the length of said electrodes.
7. (Once Amended) Switching device according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 6~~Claim 6, characterized in that the side walls of the moving structure, stoppers and electrodes are coated with a diamond layer.
9. (Once Amended) Switching device according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 8~~Claim 1, characterized in that it is made on a substrate (10).
14. (Once Amended) Switching device according to ~~Claims 2 to 13~~Claim 2, characterized in that said beam (14) presents a 'T' shaped section.
15. (Once Amended) Switching device according to ~~Claims 1 to 14~~Claim 1, in which each electrode (20) is connected to a conductor linked to a control circuit, characterized in that the electrode connection with the above-mentioned conductor comprises a fuse (42).